

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants : Reinhard STÜBER et al. Group Art Unit: Not yet assigned
Appln. No. : Not yet assigned Examiner: Not yet assigned
Filed : Concurrently herewith
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INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

In accordance with the duty of disclosure under 37 C.F.R. Sections 1.56, 1.97, and 1.98, Applicants hereby submit the following documents for the Examiner's consideration.

- (1) German Patent Application No. 29 16 212 published October 23, 1980, which is discussed in the instant application beginning in paragraph [0006]; and
- (2) German Patent Application No. 31 01 243 published July 29, 1982, which is discussed in the instant application beginning in paragraph [0006].

The following documents were cited in a Search Report dated August 8, 2003 conducted in European Patent Application No. 030 07 225.0 - 2313, which is a counterpart of the above-captioned application. In particular, the European Examiner cited:

- (3) U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2001/0013289 published August 16, 2001 as "Y" category document (i.e., a document that calls into question the inventive

step when considered with another document from this category) with regard to claims 1 - 20 of the European application. The Examiner noted paragraph 0047 and Figures 1 and 2 as being particularly relevant;

(4) German Gebrauchsmuster No. 72 20 054 published July 15, 1976 as a "Y" category document with regard to claims 1 - 20 of the European application. The Examiner noted claim 1 as being particularly relevant;

(5) European Patent Application No. 0 844 083 published May 27, 1998 as a "Y" category document with regard to claims 1 - 20 of the European application. The Examiner noted the Abstract and Figure 1 as being particularly relevant;

(6) German Patent Application No. 101 04 049 published August 14, 2002 as a "Y" category document with regard to claims 1 - 8, 10 - 17, 19, and 20 of the European application. The Examiner noted Claim 1 as being particularly relevant;

(7) German Patent Application No. 101 60 734 published July 18, 2002 as a "Y" category document with regard to claims 1 - 8, 10 - 17, 19, and 20 of the European application. The Examiner noted claim 1 and Figure 1 as being particularly relevant;

(8) International Publication No. WO 01/26902 published April 19, 2001 as a "Y" category document with regard to claims 1 - 8, 10 - 17, 19, and 20 of the European application. The Examiner noted claim 1 as being particularly relevant;

(9) German Patent Application No. 195 27 889 published January 30, 1997 as a "Y" category document with regard to claims 1 - 8, 10 - 17, 19, and 20 of the European

application. The Examiner noted column 1, lines 36 - 53 as being particularly relevant;

(10) German Patent Application No. 199 37 467 published February 8, 2001 as a "Y" category document with regard to claims 1 - 20 of the European application. The Examiner noted column 3, lines 30 - 33 as being particularly relevant. Further, for the Examiner's convenience, Applicants submit herewith a copy of Canadian Patent Application No. 2 378 970 published February 15, 2002, which is identified by the Annex to the Search Report as an English language family member of the above-cited German document.

Each of the above-cited documents are listed on the enclosed completed copy of the PTO-1449 Form. Accordingly, the Examiner is requested to consider these documents and to indicate such consideration by returning a signed and initialed copy of the PTO-1449 Form with the first official communication.

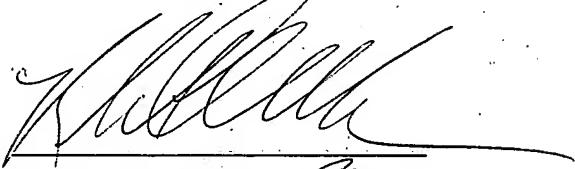
Moreover, copies of the European Search Report and of the cited non-U.S. patent documents are being submitted herewith. However, pursuant to the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office's decision to waive the requirement under 37 C.F.R 1.98 (a)(2)(i), copies of the cited/listed U.S. patents and U.S. published patent applications are not enclosed herewith. Moreover, if any copies are needed, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned.

P23910.A01

Customer No.: 7055

Should there be any questions or comments, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the below-listed telephone number.

Respectfully submitted,
Reinhard STÜBER, et al.


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October 2, 2003
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Form PTO-1449		U.S. Department of Commerce Patent and Trademark Office							Atty. Docket No. P23910		Serial No. Not Yet Assigned			
									Applicants Reinhard STÜBER et al.					
									Filing Date Concurrently Herewith		Group Not Yet Assigned			
U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS														
EXAMINER INITIAL	DOCUMENT NUMBER							DATE	NAME		CLASS	SUBCLASS	FILING DATE IF APPROPRIATE	
200	1	0	0	1	3	2	.8	9	08/16/01	BLAU et al.				
FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS														
	DOCUMENT NUMBER							DATE	COUNTRY		CLASS	SUBCLASS	TRANSLATION YES	NO
	2	9	-1	6	2	1	2	10/23/80	GERMANY					
	3	1	0	1	2	.4	3	07/29/82	GERMANY					
	7	2	2	0	0	5	4	07/15/76	GERMANY					
	0	8	4	4	0	8	3	05/27/98	EUROPE					
	1	0	1	0	4	0	4	08/14/02	GERMANY					
	1	0	1	6	0	7	3	07/18/02	GERMANY					
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	1	9	9	3	7	4	6	02/08/01	GERMANY					
	2	3	7	8	9	7	0	02/15/02	CANADA					
OTHER DOCUMENTS (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.)														
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